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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gul: UN Aid to Pakistan to be Transferred Via Incirlik -
Turkiye
Talat to Ask for Direct US Flights to northern Cyprus -
Sabah
Greek Cypriots Angered at US Invitation to Talat - Milliyet
Shiites to Settle Accounts With Saddam - Aksam
Saddam to Use Milosevic Tactics in Court - Sabah
Iran Accuses Britain in Ahvaz Bombings - Vatan
Baku Tense over Guliev's Return - Milliyet
Rice Denies She Will Run for US Presidency - Star
US Prepares for Hurricane Vilma - Star

OPINION MAKERS

Rice Invites Talat to Washington - Yeni Safak
Papoulias: Turkey's Occupation of Cyprus a Disgrace -
Radikal
Nicosia to Hold Nikiforos Exercise - Zaman
Earthquake Unite Hindus, Muslims in Kashmir - Zaman
Iraq Constitution May be Rejected - Yeni Safak
Sunnis Unhappy with Iraq Constitution - Zaman
70 Killed in Ramadi, Mostly Civilians - Yeni Safak
Regime Opponents Unite in Syria - Yeni Safak
Israel Suspends Security Ties with Palestine - Zaman
Basayev Claims Nalchik Attacks - Cumhuriyet
Rove, Libby May Soon be Sacked - Radikal

BRIEFING

Gul on Iraq Constitution Vote: Foreign Minister Abdullah
Gul has described the referendum on the new constitution in
Iraq as 'a success.' Gul told the Turkish press while en
route to Finland yesterday that although the constitution
created many concerns for Turkey, the political process in
Iraq will continue. 'A new government will be formed in
Iraq following the elections to be held in December. The
new parliament may exacerbate our concerns or eliminate
them. Everything will become clear during the political
process,' Gul said. FM Gul also stressed that unity is
necessary in Iraq in order to preserve stability.

Earthquake Aid to Pakistan through Incirlik Airbase: On
Monday, Foreign Minister Gul said at a press briefing prior
to his official travel to Finland that UN High Commissioner
for Refugees Antonio Guterres had called him on Sunday to
ask for Turkey's help in the transfer of 700 tons of UN aid,
now waiting in Turkey's southern province of Mersin, to
Pakistan. Gul said the aid will be flown to Pakistan
through Incirlik Airbase using NATO assets and Turkish
aircraft.

Erdogan to Visit Quake-Hit Pakistan: Prime Minister Tayyip
Erdogan will visit quake-stricken Pakistan later this week,
a Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) official said on Tuesday.
Erdogan is expected to arrive in Islamabad on Thursday, and
will hold talks with President Musharraf and PM Aziz on
Friday. He will also visit some of the areas affected by
the quake, according to MFA sources.

US Invites Talat to Washington: Turkish Cypriot leader
Mehmet Ali Talat has been invited to Washington on October
28 to meet with Secretary Rice, his office said on Monday.
Douglas Silliman, Assistant Director for Southeast European
Affairs at the State Department, conveyed the invitation
during a meeting with Talat yesterday in Cyprus. Silliman
said after the meeting that the invitation was part of US
efforts to seek a lasting settlement on the divided island.
Talat welcomed the invitation, calling for an end to the
decades-old economic isolation of northern Cyprus. Turkish
papers report that the invitation has caused great

consternation among Greek Cypriot leaders.

Yakis Hints at Possible Opening on Ports Issue: AKP Deputy and former foreign minister Yasar Yakis said yesterday that 'it wouldn't be the end of the world' if Turkey were to open its ports and airports to the Greek Cypriots. Yakis' comments appeared on the front page of the leftist-nationalist "Cumhuriyet" and were also carried this morning on NTV. In discussing the issue, Yakis mentioned the example of Taiwan, 'which is not recognized but which has trade relations with the whole world.' Yakis implied that the Government is working on a possible solution to the problem.

Turkey Interested in Chinese Missiles: Visiting General Xu Caihou, vice-chairman of China's Central Military Commission, met with Turkish General Staff (TGS) Chief General Hilmi Ozkok on Monday to discuss military cooperation between the two countries, "Aksam" reports. Turkey wants to make use of China's space technology and produce short-range missiles with the Chinese.

AKP Lawmaker Joins ANAP: Hasan Ozyer, an AKP lawmaker from Mugla province, joined the Motherland Party (ANAP) on Tuesday after resigning from the AKP yesterday. The following is the new distribution of seats in the parliament: AKP 355, CHP 155, ANAP 22, SHP 4, DYP 4, HYP 1, Independent 5, and Vacant 4.

Kurdistan Freedom Hawks Claim Istanbul Bombing: The Kurdistan Freedom Hawks, described by the Turkish media as a PKK splinter group, has claimed responsibility for last Saturday's bombing of a gas station in the Istanbul neighborhood of Maslak. Police say they are looking for 'a team of 5 PKK militants' in connection with the bombing.

Three Terrorists Killed in East Turkey: Security forces killed three terrorists in the eastern province of Tunceli on Monday, papers report. The Tunceli Governor's Office said the three Maoist Communist Party-People's Liberation Army (MKP-HKO) militants were killed in a clash in a rural area of Tunceli during operations targeting PKK fighters.

Motorola Close to Deal on Telsim Sale: "Milliyet" reports that US telecom giant Motorola is nearing an agreement with the Turkish Savings Insurance Fund regarding proceeds from the sale of Telsim, the cellular network confiscated from the Uzan family. Motorola has accused the Uzans of defrauding the company of several billion dollars in the late 1990s. Under the proposed deal, Motorola would receive 20 percent of the revenue raised in the sale of Telsim. The report claims that a final agreement is being held up due to Motorola's reluctance to agree to pay back the money in the event that the telsim sale is rejected by the Turkish courts.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The 'Yes' Vote Will Not Settle Everything"
Sami Kohen observed in the mainstream "Milliyet" (10/18):
"Even though the official figures have not yet been announced, we can conclude that the majority of Iraqi people have accepted the constitution. The Sunnis, who boycotted the elections in January, largely participated in the referendum, which helped it to gain greater legitimacy. The tendency in the voting was toward 'no' votes from the Sunnis and mostly 'yes' votes from the Kurds and Shiites. This is a clear indication that Iraq remains divided on regional, ethnic, and religious grounds. . The Bush administration views the referendum results as a triumph for the establishment of democracy in Iraq. The referendum was indeed a good test by Middle East standards, but we really have to wait to see whether this 'democracy' will actually bring peace, security, and national unity in Iraq. The people of Iraq, as expressed during interviews about the referendum process, want to see an end to the problems they face in their daily lives -- water shortages, power failures, and a lack of security. Whether the new political process in Iraq will be able to address those problems remains to be seen."

"Iraq"
Cengiz Candar commented in the tabloid "Bugun" (10/18): "It looks like the Iraq constitution will be approved by a narrow margin, thus paving the way for parliamentary elections on December 15. This process will be an important indicator of whether the Sunni-led armed resistance in Iraq will start to weaken. This is especially important, as we still cannot talk about a consensus constitution -- a majority of Sunnis, who make up 20 percent of Iraq, did not approve it. Iraq and the entire Middle East will continue to be problematic. . Iraq is an issue for the entire Middle East. In the event that Iraq is divided, other countries -- Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait -- cannot remain within their current borders, as of these borders were drawn

at the same time as Iraq's. The Middle East will be chaotic in the short and medium terms. We need to be prepared for this."

"The Iraq Referendum -- Putting Water in a Basket"

Mustafa Balbay argued in the leftist-nationalist "Cumhuriyet" (10/18): "We have learned from President Bush that a majority of Iraqi people have accepted the constitution. The American administration decided on the Iraqis choice first, and then put the ballot boxes in front of them. . The US was planning to establish stability and to reconstruct Iraq. According to the plans shaped prior to the occupation, these results should have been successfully achieved by now. But the reality is different. There are even reports about insurgents gaining control near the 'green zone.' In other words, the US is not comfortable even in the most secure areas of Iraq. . It looks like the US will have a much harder time leaving Iraq than it did entering. US efforts to establish order in Iraq are starting to look like trying to fill a basket with water."

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